# IN THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

OCT **09** 2009 CLERK SUPREME COURT

### **ORDER**

### IN THE MATTER OF IOWA COURT

**RULE 41.12** 

By action of this court, Iowa Court Rule 41.12 is adopted as shown in the attached document, effective immediately.

Dated this 4th day of October, 2009.

THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

By Marsha Torrus, Chief Justice

#### CHAPTER 41

### CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION FOR LAWYERS

(new rule)

# Rule 41.12 Basic skills course requirement.

- **41.12(1)** Every Iowa lawyer admitted to practice by examination after December 31, 2008 must complete a Basic Skills Course. The course must be completed within one year of the newly admitted lawyer's date of admission to practice in Iowa.\*
- **41.12(2)** The Basic Skills Course must total at least eight actual hours of instruction and include at least one actual hour qualifying for credit in the area of legal ethics. The course shall include instruction on Iowa law selected from at least eight of the following topic areas:

Civil Procedure

Criminal Law

**Criminal Procedure** 

Family Law

Guardianships, Conservatorships, Trusts, and Powers of Appointment

**Business Entities** 

**Probate** 

Torts

Contracts

**Real Estate Transactions** 

Ethics and Professionalism

- **41.12(3)** Newly admitted lawyers shall be entitled to claim credit for attendance at an accredited Basic Skills Course against the continuing legal education requirements of rules 41.3 and 42.2, but are not exempt from reporting and fee payment duties of rule 41.4.
- **41.12(4)** A lawyer who fails to complete the Basic Skills Course within one year of the date of admission may have the right to practice law suspended under the provisions of rule 41.5.
- **41.12(5)** The commission may, in individual cases involving hardship or extenuating circumstances, grant waivers of the Basic Skills Course requirement or extensions of time in which to complete the Basic Skills Course.
- **41.12(6)** The Basic Skills Course may be offered by any provider of continuing legal education, but must be reviewed and accredited by the Commission on Continuing Legal Education as provided in rule 42.4. The Basic Skills Course may be conducted in installments over time, and may be offered by computer-based transmission as provided in rule 42.3. Any provider

of the Basic Skills Course is required to report attendance in the manner specified by the commission.

\*As an interim implementation provision, lawyers admitted during calendar year 2009 must complete the Basic Skills Course within two years of the newly admitted lawyer's date of admission to practice in Iowa.